p. 1

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APR - 5 2004

Gerry S. Gressel (513) 337-3535 Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc. 4545 Creek Road Cincinnati OH 45242



FACSIMILE COVER SHEET PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES

Applicant:

Long et al.

Attorney Docket END 838

Serial No.:

10/099,772

Filed:

March 15, 2002

Cust. No.:

000027777

TO:

Ex. Peter Vrettakos

Group art unit 3739

Re:

Faxing copy of previous Response.

From:

Gerry Gressel

reg 34342

We are transmitting a total of 15 Page(s) INCLUDING this cover letter.

Examiner Vrettakos:

Per your request, I am faxing a copy of the response I faxed to the central fax number at the USPTO on March 1, 2004, along with the fax confirmation page showing 13 pages were transmitted. Please call me with any questions.

I certify this copy is being transmitted via facsimile to the USPTO on April 5, 2004.

7 4/5/64

Gerry Gressel

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Docket No. END-838

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED **CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

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APR - 5 2004

Applicants Serial No.

Gary Long et al. 10/099,772

Art Unit:

3739

Filed

March 15, 2002

Examiner:

Peter Vrettakos

For

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INSTRUMENTS

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Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facs pile to the US Patent and Trademark Office on March 1, 2004.

Gerry Gressel

Name of person signing the Certificate

(Signature)

RESPONSE TO NON FINAL REJECTION OF December 30, 2003

Dear Sir:

Petition for 2 Month Extension:

The Commissioner is respectfully petitioned for a 2 month extension of time. Authorization is hereby provided to charge the fee of \$420 and any other fee required to preserve pendency to Deposit Account 10-0750/END838/GSG.

Please amend the Application as set forth below and consider the Following Remarks:

Amendments begin on Page 2.

Remarks begin on Page 7.